

meet the rapidly changing expectations in the area of mental health service delivery. Such dedication has enabled Crider to serve over 35,000 residents a year in a four-county area who are in desperate need of such services.

Previously, the Crider Health Center faced consistent challenges in obtaining medical and oral health care services for their patients. In fact, the nearest federally qualified health centers for persons living in this four-county area were in St. Louis, Potosi and Columbia, Missouri. Such distances created a considerable challenge in terms of access for low-income residents in Crider's service area.

Crider Health Center's new FQHC status will allow Crider to integrate its current mental health care services with primary and oral health care services. This integration not only allows Crider to better serve its consumers but aid in further addressing the health care disparities in the St. Louis region.

I congratulate the Crider Health Center's recent FQHC designation. The Crider Health Center is an exemplary example of the leadership we have in Missouri and I am pleased to honor them in their continued endeavor to provide for the needs of the people in the St. Louis region.

IN TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ALEA HOKUAO MORNINGSTAR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, poet and capitol tour guide Albert C. Caswell has penned a number of heartfelt tributes to our military, and recently, he has recognized the service of Major Alea Hokua Morningstar, U.S. Army.

Major Morningstar has served in Iraq extending care to coalition and civilian casualties. As an emergency physician, she has served honorably and bravely at three combat support hospitals and as a field surgeon.

Major Morningstar symbolizes the professionalism of America's military. I want to thank her and all the brave men and women of our armed forces for their service. They are fighting to defend our freedom and protect American families.

I gladly submit the following into the RECORD.

A Morning Star,
That's who you are . . .
A light which shines so very fine . . . so very
far, that's who you are . . .

A woman of heart,
Of Hopi Sioux, great American Indian blood
. . . a fine woman of soul . . .

A healer, a great Hawaiian . . . For, but the
gift of life . . . to so give, as what you
chose . . .

A light,
In the darkest of days and nights . . .
Which burns bright, as a Morning Star . . .
can cheat death, can so bless . . . and
can give fight!

Out in darkness of evil war, out in harms
way . . .

Amidst the darkness and solemn gray . . .
amidst the death, and all of that sad
decay . . .

To save a life, to hold a dying hero's hand
until that night . . . Morning Star,
that was your way . . .

As there, in The ER . . .
You'd hear the screams, and the devil's roar
it seems . . . trying to save life, you'd
go far!

All in the midst of his evil gore, all in the
face of hell . . . you fine heart choose
to swell, for one life more

Living in the shadow of death,
Pouring out your very heart and soul, until
none lies left . . .

As with your God given skills, the gift of life
and hope you instilled . . . staying
with the dying until death!

A young hero's last vision, before they were
gone . . .

A bright Morning Star, holding their hand
. . . as was your decision, not leaving
them alone . . .

The last Angel they would see on Earth,
showing your worth . . . with tears in
eyes your mission honed!

And in the coming years,
There will be many a tear, when in that moment
it all comes back to you . . . so
here . . .

But, what baby born . . . to save the world
. . . or love so great, to this our world
adorned that you saved here!

And for all of those Mothers of Sons,
And all of those Fathers of Daughters, who
so lost their most precious of all loved
ones . . .

They may gain strength, in knowing what
your love to their dying loved ones so
meant! At the end!

A Morning Star,
Yes, my Lady . . . that's who you are . . .
A light which shines so very bright . . . so
very far, into the night, that's who you
are!

High above,
With your gift of life, your gift of love . . .
Holding a dying hero's hand, On The Wings
of a Dove!

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the 261 Members who supported H.R. 505, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007. I also want to encourage my colleagues who did not support the bill to talk to me and Congressman ABERCROMBIE to learn more about the merits of the legislation. The passage of the bill has been celebrated by the people of Hawaii—Native Hawaiians and non-Native Hawaiian alike. I thank all the members of this body for the respectful and deliberate manner in which the debate was conducted.

During the course of my remarks on the bill, I was privileged to place into the record several recent letters of support for H.R. 505, including letters from the Governor of the State of Hawaii, as well as the National Congress of American Indians and the American Bar Association, two of more than 50 national and state organizations that worked hard on behalf of the bill.

After the vote on the bill, I received another letter of support from the Japanese American Citizens League, one of many civil rights organizations championing the efforts of Native

Hawaiians to regain their right of self-governance and self-determination.

Americans of Japanese ancestry fought their own battles against discrimination and subjugation, although for a shorter duration, when they were sent to relocation camps during World War II. They understand all too well the deprivation suffered by the Native Hawaiians, since their sovereign government was overthrown, and have lent their full support to the Native Hawaiian cause, which I deeply appreciate.

It is therefore important that this letter from the Japanese American Citizens League be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect the support of the JACL for this historic vote to recognize the inherent sovereignty of the indigenous, native people of Hawaii. I thank the members of JACL for their valuable support.

JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE,

Washington, DC, Oct. 23, 2007.

Hon. MAZIE K. HIRONO,
1229 Longworth House Office Building, U.S.
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HIRONO: The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, fully supports the passage of H.R. 505, The Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007 (NHGRA), introduced by the Members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation. The bill is scheduled for a vote before the House on Wednesday, October 24th and I ask that you vote in favor of the bill and against any motion to recommit H.R. 505.

A process of U.S. recognition is already available to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and enactment of NHGRA extends a similar process to Native Hawaiians. There are over 560 federally recognized Native governing entities functioning in the U.S., along side local, state and federal governing entities. Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai'i, whose ancestors practiced sovereignty in their ancestral lands that later became part of the United States. The establishment of a process of federal recognition for Native Hawaiians moves us toward fairness in federal policy toward American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

Protection of Native Hawaiian culture, as well as existing Native Hawaiian programs is critical for future generations. Perpetuation of distinct, living cultures requires self-determination, and that is necessary for the Native Hawaiian culture as well. Enactment of NHGRA protects this greater self-determination, and thus the distinct culture. It protects existing programs because it establishes a single U.S. policy reaffirming that as the indigenous people of Hawai'i, Native Hawaiian people have a special political and legal relationship with the U.S., consistent with the Hawai'i Constitution, over 150 existing Federal laws addressing Native Hawaiians and the U.S. Constitution regarding Native people of the lands of the 50 states.

Sincerely,

FLOYD MORI,
National Director.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTHY AIR AND CLEAN WATER ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Healthy Air and Clean Water

Act. This legislation, drafted with the valued input and assistance from my constituents from the 23rd Congressional District of New York, is designed to combat four pollutants—mercury, carbon, nitrogen oxide, and sulfur dioxide—that are decimating our Nation's environment.

I have the distinct privilege of representing one of the largest congressional districts east of the Mississippi River. The district stretches from Lake Ontario on the west to Lake Champlain on the east, and is capped by the magnificent St. Lawrence River, with its famous Thousand Islands region. The district also includes the Adirondack Park, which is bigger than the Grand Canyon, Glacier, Yellowstone, and Yosemite National Parks combined and is world-renowned for its pristine beauty.

The environmental beauty of the region is not only enjoyed by my northern and central New York constituents, it also supports a vibrant tourism industry, with many choosing to visit in order to partake in such activities as boating, hunting and sport fishing. In addition, downhill and cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and ice fishing are but a few of the winter activities associated with the region that has twice been home to the Winter Olympics.

The Healthy Air and Clean Water Act would require the reduction of 90 percent of mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 2011. The need for this legislation is clearly illustrated by the fact that, due to high levels of mercury contamination, everyone within New York State is now advised to eat no more than one meal per week comprised of fish taken from New York State waters. Sadly, women of childbearing age and young children have been warned not to eat any of six types of fish caught from 55 bodies of water within the Adirondack Park area. Frankly stated, Madam Speaker, this state of affairs is unacceptable.

Carbon emissions are a leading cause of global warming and thus a threat to our environment as well as the economy of my district and throughout the country. Thus, the Healthy Air and Clean Water Act would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 80 percent from the 2005 levels in the year 2050.

The bill also seeks to address acid rain, which is principally caused by the effects of nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide. Specifically, by January 1, 2010, the bill would require nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions to be reduced to 75 percent of the levels that these pollutants reached in 1997. As a lifelong resident of New York's north country, I have seen firsthand the impact acid rain has had upon the Adirondack Park and its High Peaks region. In fact, I am alarmed by the vast area of the Adirondack Mountains that has been ravaged by this silent killer; close to 700 lakes and ponds in the Park are too acidic to support their native plant and aquatic wildlife.

It is important to note, Madam Speaker, that acid rain's impact is far from limited to the Adirondacks alone. In Virginia, thousands of miles of Appalachian trout streams are at risk of becoming chronically acidic and thus unable to support wild brook trout populations. In the southern Appalachians, acid rain is altering soil chemistry and leaching valuable nutrients from the soil. And in Vermont, acid rain has killed more than half of large-canopy red spruce in the Green Mountains and approximately one-quarter of large-canopy red spruce in the White Mountains. Sadly, acid rain is

also reducing sugar maple trees in central and western Pennsylvania as well.

In response, the Healthy Air and Clean Water Act would authorize funding for the operation and modernization of a number of programs that monitor the impact these pollutants have on our environment. These include, but are not limited to, the Clean Air Status and Trends Network, the National Atmospheric Deposition Program National Trends Network, and the National Atmospheric Deposition Program Mercury Deposition Network. My bill would further require the Environmental Protection Agency to submit reports to Congress to identify objectives that protect sensitive regional ecosystems, including but not limited to the Adirondack, mid-Appalachian, Catskill, Rocky, and Southern Blue Ridge Mountain ranges and water bodies of the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain, Long Island Sound, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Madam Speaker, as is often the case with proposed legislation, some may argue that my bill goes too far, while others may claim that it does not go far enough. However, while Congress continues the important and needed debate in our quest to craft the perfect global warming legislation, our constituents and environment wait. We cannot allow the perfect to become the enemy of good. Similarly, we cannot afford to commit a sin of omission. If we do not begin to take action now, clean and viable healthy waters and forests might well become a distant memory. There are always tradeoffs in public policy and I firmly believe the benefits of acting in this instance far outweigh all potential costs, particularly those of inaction.

I'd like to include, for the record, two letters of support for my bill, one from The Adirondack Council and the other from the Adirondack Mountain Club.

We can see the impact these four pollutants are having upon our environment and our health. The Healthy Air and Clean Water Act would address and reduce that impact and I urge my colleagues to join with me as I work to enact it into law.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB,
October 10, 2007.

Re Healthy Air and Clean Water Act.

Hon. JOHN MCHUGH
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH: On behalf of the Adirondack Mountain Club, ADK, we would like to take this opportunity to express our strong support for your Healthy Air and Clean Water Act. We believe that passage of this four-pollutant bill is critical to achieving greater reductions in harmful nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, mercury and carbon dioxide emissions.

ADK, a membership organization representing approximately 30,000 hikers, paddlers and cross-country skiers, advocates for the protection and responsible use of New York's Forest Preserve and other wild lands and waters.

We have a critical stake in the continued vitality of the federal Clean Air Act to effectively reduce air pollution from coal-fired electric generating facilities. Enforcement of the Clean Air Act has already resulted in significant reductions in air pollution emissions that are harmful to human communities, aquatic life and forest ecosystems in the Appalachians, Hudson Highlands, Catskills, Adirondacks and White Mountains. However, more needs to be done and we believe that your Healthy Air and Clean Water

Act will lead to even greater reductions in air pollution.

CARBON DIOXIDE

Carbon dioxide emissions have been scientifically linked to global climate change. ADK is very pleased that the Healthy Air and Clean Water Act would cut carbon emissions from coal-burning power plants by 80 percent by 2050. Further, the requirement that EPA establish a market-based carbon emissions trading program by 2010 will provide an economic incentive for power plants to reduce carbon emissions.

Climate change threatens the local economies of the Adirondacks, Catskills and other areas that rely heavily on winter sports, such as snowmobiling, downhill and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Also, a study by the National Wildlife Federation found that lower summer stream flows and higher stream temperatures due to global warming could significantly reduce habitat for brook trout and other cold-water fish in New York.

As temperatures rise; the Adirondacks could be plagued by tree-destroying pests such as the Sirex woodwasp, hemlock woolly adelgid and Asian longhorned beetle.

We believe that the carbon dioxide cuts included in the Healthy Air and Clean Water Act are critical to reducing the impact of the many threats posed by global climate change.

MERCURY

ADK also supports the legislation's proposed cuts for hazardous mercury emissions. A 90 percent reduction in mercury emissions by 2011 is critical to addressing the devastating impacts of mercury on public health and wildlife.

A 2007 independent study by Charles Driscoll and the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation estimated that mercury emissions from US coal-fired power plants are responsible for 40 percent to 65 percent of mercury deposition in the Northeast. Current levels of mercury deposition in the Northeast are four to six times higher than the levels recorded in 1900. Ninety-six percent of the lakes in the Adirondack region and forty percent of the lakes in New Hampshire and Vermont exceed the recommended EPA action level for methyl mercury in fish. High mercury levels in fish from six reservoirs in the Catskills have prompted advisories that infants, children under the age of 15, and women of childbearing age should not eat any fish from these reservoirs. Further, mercury is present in two-thirds of Adirondack loons at levels that negatively impact their reproductive capacity, posing a significant risk to their survival.

The Healthy Air and Clean Water Act, if enacted, would significantly reduce harmful mercury emissions and penalize those coal-fired electric generating facilities that do not comply with the new standard. The legislation also requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promulgate regulations regarding monitoring systems to measure mercury emissions. Monitoring systems are a critical component in effectively enforcing the new mercury standards.

NITROGEN OXIDE AND SULFUR DIOXIDE

The Healthy Air and Clean Water Act will reduce nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants by 75 percent from 1997 levels by January of 2010. Such a reduction is critical to reducing the scourge of acid rain and acid deposition in New York.

As a result of acid rain, a quarter of the lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks have become too acidic to support aquatic life. Acidic precipitation also depletes calcium from forest soils, leaving sugar maple and red spruce trees more vulnerable to insects and

winter kill. Since the 1960s, more than one half of the large canopy red spruce in the Adirondack and Green Mountains and one quarter of large canopy red spruce in the White Mountains have died.

ADK strongly supports the legislation's provision closing the existing loophole allowing old coal-burning power plants that were grandfathered from the Clean Air Act to continue operating without complying with the most recent new source performance standards. The new standards must be met either on the power plant's 30th birthday or within five years after the enactment of the act. As you know, the Adirondacks and other wild lands and waters in the Northeast are located downwind of many of these unremediated power plants whose emissions have damaged lakes and forests in these regions, as mentioned above. Further, ADK supports the legislation's balanced approach to regulating nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide through the use of market oriented mechanisms such as emissions trading, auctions or other allocation methods in order to achieve compliance with the emissions reduction requirements.

REPORTS AND FUNDING

ADK supports the legislation's requirement that the EPA submit a report to Congress by 2010 identifying objectives to protect sensitive regional ecosystems, such as the Adirondack Mountains. By 2019, the EPA will have to determine if the emissions reductions are sufficient to ensure that the objectives contained in the report are met. If not, EPA will have to promulgate regulations to ensure that said objectives are met.

As mentioned above, the Adirondack Mountains and other wild lands and waters in the Northeast have been seriously impacted by air pollution emitted by coal-fired electric generating power plants. The report and subsequent regulations if needed will ensure that these sensitive areas are better protected from the devastating effects of air pollution.

The funding measures contained in the legislation are also important. The authorization of funding for critical clean air networks and programs such as the National Atmospheric Deposition Program National Trends Network will provide needed support for continued monitoring of air pollution and its effect on the environment.

ADK strongly supports the Healthy Air and Clean Water Act. We believe that, if enacted, it will lead to significant and necessary reductions in nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, mercury, and carbon dioxide emissions.

We look forward to working with you and your staff as this legislation advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

NEIL F. WOODWORTH,
Executive Director.

MARISA TEDESCO,
Conservation and Legislative Director.

THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL,
October 15, 2007.

Hon. JOHN MCHUGH,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCHUGH: On behalf of the entire Board of Directors and staff of the Adirondack Council, I write to thank you for introducing the Healthy Air and Clean Water Act. This bill, if passed into law, would have profound benefits for the Adirondack Park of upstate New York.

Numerous studies have shown that the Adirondack Mountains have suffered some of the most devastation in the country due to the scourge of acid rain, caused by the emis-

sions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which often come from Midwestern coal burning power plants. This has caused great damage to the forest of the over one million acres of true Wilderness within the Adirondack Park, as well as having nearly 700 water bodies lose their ability to sustain their native fish populations due to their unnaturally low pH.

In addition, the New York State Department of Health advises that women of child-bearing age and children under age 15 should not eat any of six varieties of fish taken from either Adirondack or Catskill water bodies due to high levels of mercury contamination. Another eight species should not be consumed by women and children more than once a week for the same reason.

More recently, studies have concluded that if there is not a dramatic decrease in the emissions that cause climate change, upstate New York, including the Adirondack Park, may have the climate currently associated with southern states like Virginia or Georgia by the end of the century. This would create tremendous problems for the Adirondacks. Warmer weather would lead to the invasion by more exotic species, harming our native flora and fauna. Some species of trees associated with the colder climate of New York would slowly begin to move north to the cooler temperatures of Canada. Birds, such as the rare Bicknell's Thrush, would also leave New York in search of cooler breeding habitat. In addition, there would be many fewer days with snow cover on the ground in the Adirondacks, greatly diminishing the winter tourism economy, now associated with activities such as cross country and downhill skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and ice fishing.

Once again, we wholeheartedly support your legislation, the Healthy Air and Clean Water Act, and will actively encourage your colleagues to become co-sponsors of it and pass it in the House of Representatives as soon as possible. We thank you once again for all of your efforts to limit the negative impacts of all four of the pollutants in your bill. We look forward to working with you to secure its passage and protect the people and environment of the Adirondack Park.

Sincerely,

BRIAN L. HOUSEAL,
Executive Director.

GO, MIKE JOSHI, GO

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Mike Joshi for running in (and completing) yesterday's 32nd Annual Marine Corps Marathon.

Mike is the staff assistant in my Washington, DC office. He has shown great focus, commitment and dedication in the months leading up to yesterday's marathon. Mike is such a positive presence in the office and he has been such a good sport . . . allowing everyone in the office to "participate" in his training by sharing stories and updates from his evening and weekend runs.

I am told that when his coworkers saw Mike at mile 13 (the half way point), he was smiling and looking so relaxed . . . like it was mile 3, not 13. The characteristics that carried him over the finish line will continue to serve him well in the race that is life.

Congratulations Mike on this amazing accomplishment. Team SCHAKOWSKY is so proud of you.

MARKING PATH'S 30TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, this year marks 30 years since PATH began working to create innovative solutions that enable communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. Originally founded in 1977 as the Program for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology (PIACT), PATH began by helping manufacturers set up facilities for making high-quality condoms in China.

Today, PATH implements health programs in many countries, works with a variety of private partners to develop new vaccines and microbicides, and has advanced more than 30 health technologies for low-resource settings. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, PATH provides appropriate health technologies and vital strategies to improve global health and well-being worldwide.

Over the past three decades, PATH has worked in more than 100 countries and received many prestigious international awards for its work. PATH's president, Dr. Christopher Elias, was the Schwab Foundation's "U.S. Social Entrepreneur of the Year" in 2006 and the organization has earned four-star ratings from Charity Navigator, the Fast Company Social Capitalist Award, and recognition by Amazon.com as one of the ten most innovative nonprofits.

The breadth of PATH's work includes many innovative technologies. One example, the Uniject™ device, is a single-use syringe (auto-disabled to prevent reuse) used by USAID to prevent maternal deaths and by UNICEF to deliver life-saving vaccines. PATH also implements and expands programs to increase adoption of malaria control and childhood nutrition interventions in some of the world's poorest settings. Additionally, the organization's public-private partnerships work to create and introduce affordable vaccines to prevent malaria, meningitis, cervical cancer, diarrheal diseases, and other major illnesses.

PATH's efforts maximize health equity to ensure health products and programs reach the poorest and most vulnerable. They strengthen the capacity to foster demand-driven and scalable solutions by promoting an inclusive approach to innovation and discovery—one that builds strong partnerships with communities, industry, and local governments. Admirably, the organization enhances programmatic integration and improving the monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination of results.

As health inequities continue to persist, the effects of preventable disease and deaths become greater, particularly in our increasingly interconnected and global society. PATH demonstrates a commitment to address these threats. They have demonstrated dedication to finding innovative, scalable solutions for some of the world's greatest challenges by harnessing the promise of science and technology, the ingenuity of individuals and communities, and ensuring solutions can be realized for everyone.